



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 32 Years of Leadership & Advocacy
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MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller
President

Janet A. Neal
1st Vice President

Harley D. Rubenstein
2nd Vice President

Bernard Siegel
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Mary Chambers
Wan Chun Chang
Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, December 19, 2007, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Weller at 1:05 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Rosemary Osuna and the following Commissioners were present at the meeting: Kecia B. Weller, Janet A. Neal, Harley D. Rubenstein, Donna Pomerantz, Bernard Siegel, Sheila D. Wright, Alexia Teran and John B. Troost. Commissioners Michael G. Gureckas, Wan Chun Chang, Mary Chambers, and Wendy L. Welt and were not present.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 21, 2007, MINUTES

On motion of Treasurer Siegel, seconded by 1st Vice President Neal, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of November 21, 2007, were approved with the following amendments:

Page 2, Under President's Report

President Weller reiterated the importance of the attendance of Commissioners at Commission Meetings. **President Weller, further added that poor attendance hinders the Commission's ability to bring forward information and/or recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and disadvantages the Commission from voting (taking action) on vital items on the agenda.**

Page 5, Under Transportation Committee

Ms. Teddie Joy Remhild attended the Access Services Board of Directors Meeting held on Thursday, November 8, 2007, at the Luminarias Restaurant in Monterey Park. She discussed Agenda Item 4 of the Board of Directors' Agenda which dealt with approval to adopt the extension of a one-year contract option for ASI-1557 Eligibility Determination Services beginning July 1, 2008 with C.A.R.E Evaluations, LLC.

Ms. Remhild noted that the Board of Directors voted to extend the contract for three months instead of one year. **However, after the meeting, Ms. Remhild and other members of the Board of Directors were notified that three of the members who voted to extend the contract for three months had rescinded their vote, and that the Board of Directors was calling a special meeting on November 26, 2007, to reconsider the vote on the action taken by the Board of Directors on November 8, 2007. Ms. Remhild was advised that the members who rescinded their vote would vote in favor of the original motion. On November 26, 2007, the Board will hold a special meeting to reconsider the vote on the action taken.** The Access Services Board of Directors Special meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, November 26, 2007, (Closed Session: 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.; General Session: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.), Los Angeles County MTA, One Gateway Plaza, 729 Vignes Street, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, California.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Garcia reported that there is lack of housing for the disability community and distributed correspondence regarding Assembly Bill 851 (AB 851).

Jesse Padilla, representing the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC), reported that the ELARC has published the *Guide to Healthy Living*. Individuals interested in obtaining copies of the guide may contact him at the ELARC.

Teddie Joy-Remhild reported on AB 851, formerly AB 1113, assembly bill passed by the Assembly and Senate and vetoed by the Governor in October 2007. AB 851 authored by Assembly Woman Julia Brownley from the City of Santa Monica will be reintroduced on January 13, 2008. Ms. Remhild proposed that the Commission write a letter of support to the Health and Appropriations Committees of both Legislative Branches.

Sandy Eisenberg reported on another court victory for the Solorzano family in which *Communication Access in Real Time (CART)* was granted to another member of the Solorzano family. Ms. Eisenberg submitted written correspondence. Information on the case may be accessed at www.yourcaptioner.com.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Weller reported on the *Pathway Program*, a new program offered through UCLA's Extension Program. The Pathway Program is a two-year certificate program for students with developmental disabilities. It provides education in vocational and social studies under the supervision of expert trained staff that are sensitive to the individual needs of the student with disabilities within the age range of 18 to 25 years of age. She reported that she was recently hired as a teacher's assistant by the Pathway Program to teach an American Government Course.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- Ms. Maria Mustelier-Parrish was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Burke at the December 11, 2007, Board meeting. She was unable to attend today's meeting, but looks forward to the next meeting in 2008.
- On December 11, 2007, the Board adopted an amendment to the County Code for the Commission on Disabilities which includes the new officer titles and authorizes the Commission to hold fundraising activities and to promote activities for people with disabilities.
- Based on a Board directive, all Commissioners on Commissions and/or advisory Boards of the Los Angeles County are mandated to attend Sexual Harassment Prevention/Cultural Diversity Training. The Commission is scheduled for February 20, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.
- A draft of the *Access to Resources for People with Disabilities* booklet was presented to the Commissioners for review and recommendations. Upon review and approval by the Commission, the booklet will be ready for release.

Commissioner Pomerantz and 2nd Vice President Rubenstein requested that staff add additional information to the booklet on Independent Living Centers and resources for the blind.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

None.

Public Relations Committee

Access Annual Awards Luncheon

1st Vice President Neal reported that the Public Relations Committee will meet in January. She would like the Commission to consider the location for the 2008 Access Awards Luncheon, and to entertain the idea of changing the names of the existing awards to names associated with key people linked to the disabilities movement.

Ms. Rosemary Osuna noted that the Commission Website has the 2007 Access Awards Luncheon's press release with photos of the event which can be accessed at www.laccod.org.

1st Vice President Neal further added that, in the future, the Commission would like to increase the number of Bill Tainter Scholarships awarded.

Radio Program-Disability Forum, KTYM 1460 AM aired on the third Wednesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

- *Discussion on the possibility of Captioning the Disability Network Program*

1st Vice President Neal proposed that the Disability Network radio program be captioned and that it be financed by the Commission's trust fund. She reported that captioning the program would make it accessible to people who are hearing impaired as they would be able to read the text during the airing of the show.

The Commission discussed the feasibility of captioning the radio program and considered the following factors:

- The technicalities associated with accomplishing the captioning.
- The cost involved.
- Expanding access of radio program to people with hearing impairments.

- Developing ways to measure current success of the show, i.e. tracking number and types of calls received during and after the program.
- Consideration of links that are accessible to people with sight impairments who use screen-readers.
- Consideration of potential websites that would display the captioning.
- Availability of transcripts to the public.

After discussion, on motion of 1st Vice President Neal, seconded by Commissioner Troost, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved that the Public Relations Committee research further the possibility of captioning the radio program considering the issues raised associated with cost, location, and links for people with sight impairments and that the Committee report back to the Commission in three months.

Community Service

Discussion on letter to Supervisor Antonovich on Communication Access in Real Time (CART) in the Glendora School District

Commissioner Pomerantz thanked the Commissioners and staff for the recommendations she received when preparing the letter to Supervisor Antonovich. She informed the Commission that she would follow up with a phone call to the Supervisors office to express the Commission's thanks.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ASI Report - Teddie Joy Remhild

Ms. Remhild reported that no Access Services Board of Directors' (Board) Meeting took place in the month of December. She further added that a no extension was awarded to contract ASI-1557 Eligibility Determination Services with C.A.R.E Evaluations, LLC --said contract will expire on June 30, 2008. The Board of Directors has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) soliciting a new provider. The RFP proposals are due by February 7, 2008 with decisions, on the selection, in March 2008. Results on the audit of the C.A.R.E Evaluators from the Inspector General's Office should be available by March 2008. She will keep the Commission current on the Inspector General's audit report.

Commissioner Pomerantz reported that although all Sub Committees under Transportation Committees have not met, she has been working very closely with the *Service Animal Committee* and other entities regarding *Access Services Drivers* and their dealings with *service animals*. She further added that she would like the Commission to schedule the Department of Animal Care and Control to speak on *service animals*.

REPORT OF KURT HAGAN, DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

None.

ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

Commissioners Wright, Pomerantz and Teran requested that the following items be placed on a future agenda:

- Follow up with Access Services requesting that they provide alternate locations at which users can purchase Script.
- Abuse of Disabled Parking Placards and Citizen Citations.
- Distribution of *Access to Resources for People with Disabilities* informational booklet.
- Donation to the Demetria "Dedie" Ward Memorial Fund.
- Discussion of ADA violations and how Building and Safety, Department of Public Works deals with the violations.
- Schedule Ms. Hillary Sklar, Attorney, Protection and Advocacy, to address the Commission regarding the *Electronic System and Software InkaVote Plus* and voting by the disability community.
- Schedule a representative from the Fire Department to speak to the Commission on Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Vice President Neal reported that *Medi-Cal* has approved her medical procedure requests (previously denied) with the assistance of her doctor who filed a *Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) with Medi-Cal*.

1st Vice President Neal further added that she received correspondence from the law firm of Gordon, Edelstein, Krepack, Grant, Felton & Goldstein, who has established itself as a recognized leader in Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation law in Southern California.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of 1st Vice President Neal, seconded by Treasurer Siegel, and unanimously carried, President Weller adjourned the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Kecia B. Weller, President
Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President
Harley D. Rubenstein, 2nd Vice President
Donna Pomerantz
Bernard Siegel
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Sheila Wright

Excused Absence

Mary Chambers
Michael Gureckas
Wan Chun Chang

Unexcused Absence

Wendy L. Welt

ASI

Teddie Joy-Remhild

Board of Supervisors

Sandra Barbee, Chief
Rosemary Osuna, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Guests

Magda Carrero, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Jesse Padilla, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Carlton Lindo, Department of Consumer Affairs
Dennis W. O'Brien, Department of Mental Health, (LACCC)
Maria N. Tan, Department of Mental Health, (LACCC)
Daniel Garcia